

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 231415Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2526

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1072

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: LIBYAN DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON

1. LIBYANS HAVE RECENTLY ASSIGNED THREE NEW DIPLOMATS
TO STAFF OF THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON:

(A) SULAYMAN ABU BAKR BALKHAYR, ATTACHE, ON JULY 21;

(B) SHAABAN FAYTURI AL-QASHUT, COUNSELOR, ON AUGUST 5;
AND (C) AHMAD BASHIR DAWUD, COUNSELOR, ON SEPTEMBER 23.

2. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN
AFFAIRS AT MFA, BALKHAYR AND AL-QASHUT HAVE NOT BEEN
GRANTED DIPLOMATIC STATUS BY DEPT BECAUSE THEIR ARRIVAL
BROUGHT NUMBER OF LIBYAN DIPLOMATS ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY
TO MORE THAN EIGHT THE LIBYANS ARE PERMITTED TO HAVE
UNDER RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT WE INSTITUTED AFTER LARG
IMPOSE RESTRICTION ON SIZE OF EMBASSY TRIPOLI.

3. AS DEPT IS AWARE, LARG INFORMED US ON APRIL 14 ORALLY
THAT RESTRICTION ON SIZE OF EMBASSY TRIPOLI HAD BEEN LIFTED.
IN LIGHT THIS UNILATERAL ACTION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT SERVES
ANY PURPOSE TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON SIZE
OF LIBYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT TO DO SO NEEDLESSLY
ALIENATES FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO ARE OFTEN WELL
DISPOSED TO US WITHOUT HAVING ANY EFFECT ON QADHAFI AND CO.
WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT ACCORD THREE RECENTLY
ASSIGNED OFFICIALS DIPLOMATIC STATUS, AND AUTHORIZE US TO
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INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY ORALLY THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM

IN THIS REGARD AS LONG AS SIZE OF EMBASSY IS KEPT WITHIN
REASON. THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE A MORE FORMAL AFFAIR OF
IT.

4. SHAABAN SAYS THE PRESENT CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, AL-GAYED,
IS TO LEAVE HIS POST SOON AND THAT AL-QASHUT WILL PROBABLY
REPLACE HIM. AL-QASHUT IS MEMBER OF A PROMINENT TRIPOLI
FAMILY, WAS APPOINTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER THE
MONARCHY, AND IS A CAREER OFFICIAL WHO SHOULD DO A CAPABLE
JOB AS CHARGE.
STEIN

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